

**Application Serial No. 10/783,241
Amendment dated 10/18/2005 in
Response to Office Action dated 04/18/2005**

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-6 and 13-21 are pending in the application and that claims 1-6 and 13-21 are rejected. By this response, claims 1, 5, 13-14 and 16 have been amended, and new claims 22-27 have been added. Thus, claims 1-6 and 13-27 are pending in the application.

Examiner Interview on September 16, 2005

Applicant's counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for courtesies extended in conducting an Examiner in-person interview on September 16, 2005. During such interview, independent claims 1, 5, and 16 were discussed. The limitations added via this amendment in claims 1, 5, and 16 were also discussed in relation to operation of the drive wheels on the servo helper assembly and the servo pick assembly to synchronize or adjust operation of the servo helper assembly relative to the servo pick assembly.

Objections to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the following informalities: Page 1, line 10, underline after "U.S. Patent No." should be deleted and replaced with --6,843,156--. Such correction has been made herein on page 2 of this Response. Minor typographical errors have also been amended in paragraphs 43 and 49.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C., §102

Claims 1, 5-6, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Arends et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,173,161). Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Keim* (U.S. Patent No. 4,430,914). Independent claims 1, 5, and 16 have been amended pursuant to changes discussed during the Examiner interview, discussed above.

Independent claim 1 includes an amendment that adds limitations of providing a servo pick assembly and a servo helper assembly. Relative feed distance is detected between the two assemblies and operating speed of the servo helper assembly is synchronized relative to the servo pick assembly. See Figure 1 and paragraphs 29 and 30, at least, for support.

Independent claim 5 includes an amendment that adds limitations of providing a servo helper assembly, a servo pick assembly, a guide member, and a web proximity detector. Distance between the web and the guide member is detected and operating speed of the servo helper is adjusted relative to the servo pick assembly response to the detected distance. See Figure 1 and paragraphs 31, at least, for support.

Independent claim 16 includes an amendment that adds limitations of providing a servo helper assembly and a servo pick assembly. Delivery location of the web and articles relative to one of the servo pick assembly, the servo helper assembly, and the treadle is detected. A difference in delivery status of the web and articles by the servo helper assembly relative to the servo pick assembly is detected. In response to detecting a

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difference in delivery status, the at least one drive wheel of the servo helper assembly is briefly disengaged from the web to enable one or more of: a) realignment of the web and articles and b) adjustment and spacing of the web between the servo pick assembly and the servo helper assembly. See Fig. 1 and paragraph 33, at least, for support.

Dependent claims 6 and 17-19 are amended by way of amendment to respective independent claims 5 and 16.

Accordingly, amendment to claims 1, 5-6 and 16-19 is believed to overcome the anticipation rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by *Arends et al.* and such claims are now believed to be allowable.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C., §103

Claims 5-6 and 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keim*, in view of *Arends*. Independent claims 5 and 16 have been amended as recited above in order to overcome the obviousness rejection herein. The amendments are reasserted herein. Hence claims 5-6 and 13-21 are believed to overcome the obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keim*, in view of *Arends*. Hence, such claims are now believed to be allowable.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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New claims 22-27

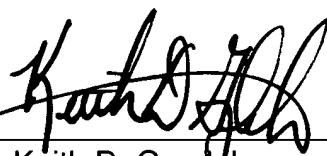
New claims 22-27 have been added to further limit the amended claims. Such claims are directed to features taught and supported with reference to Figure 1.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/18/05

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